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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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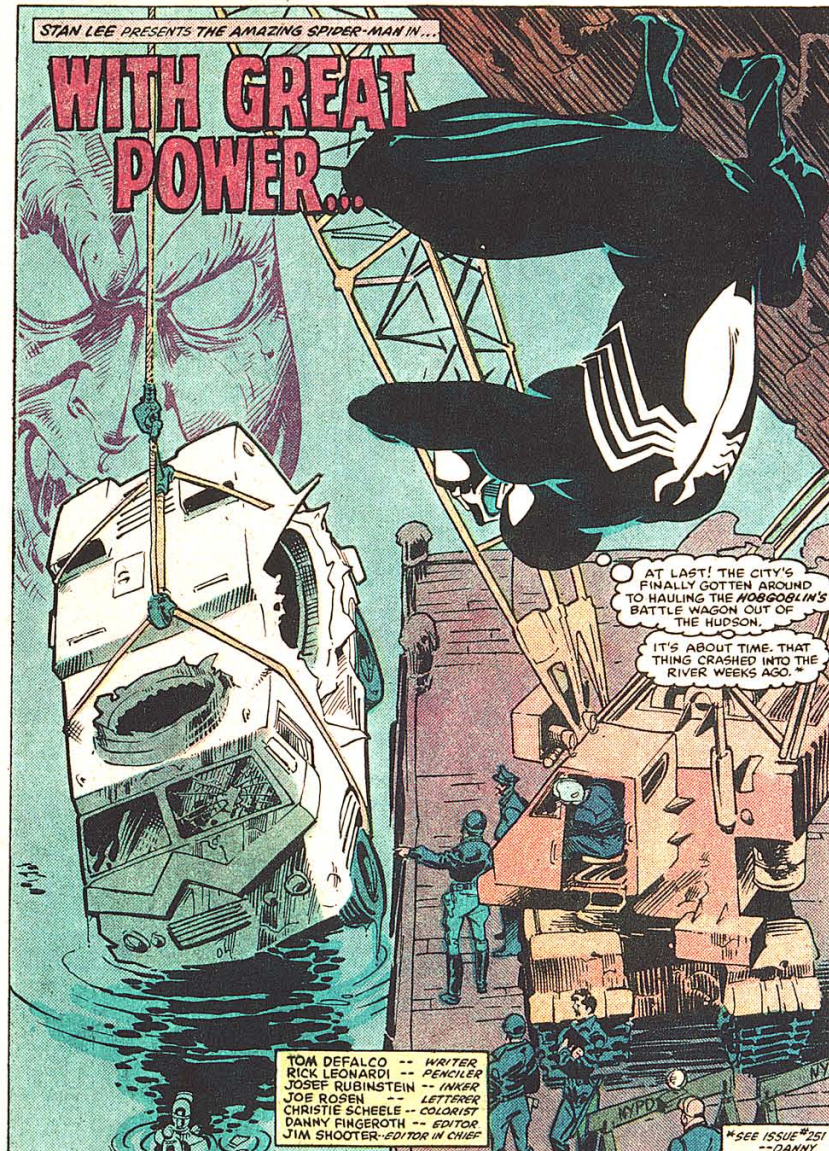
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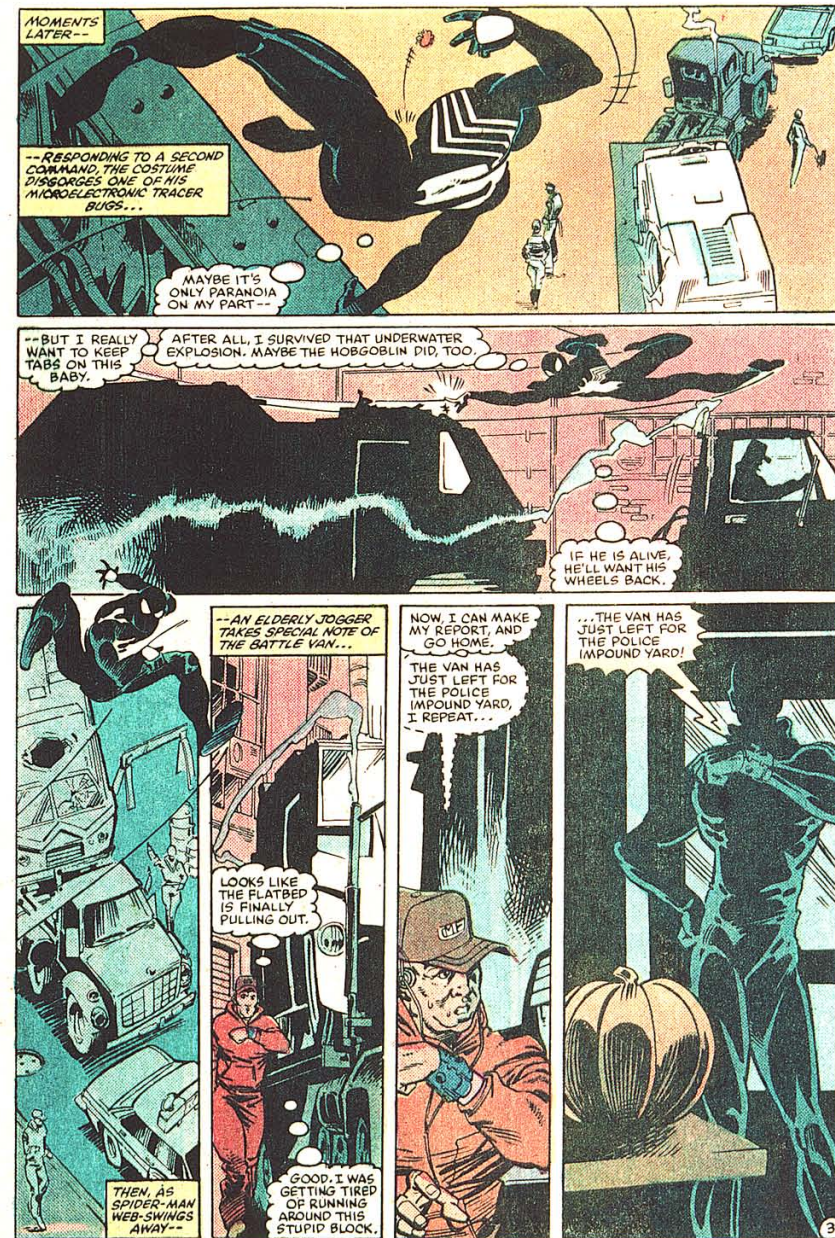
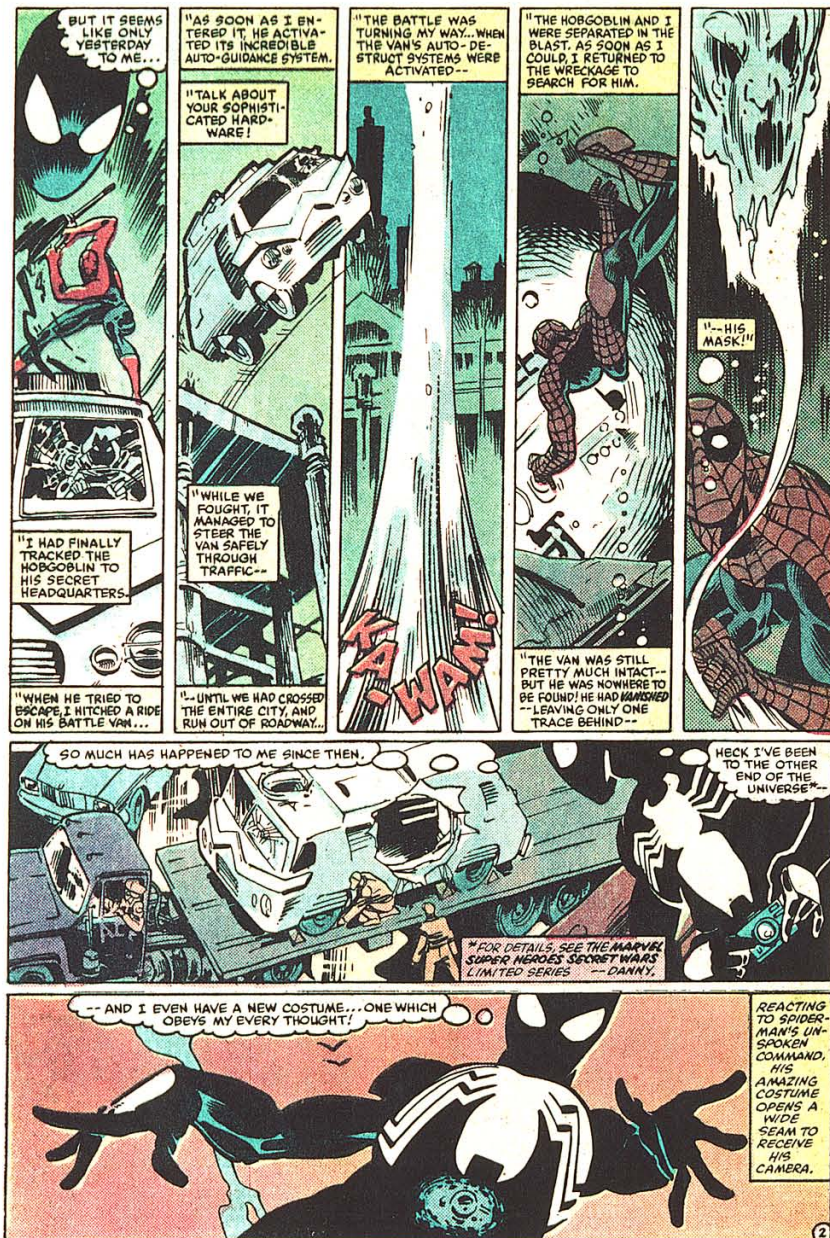
IT'S ABOUT TIME. THAT THING CRASHED INTO THE RIVER WEEKS AGO.

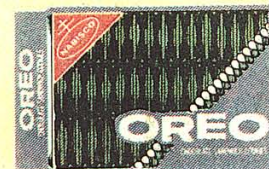
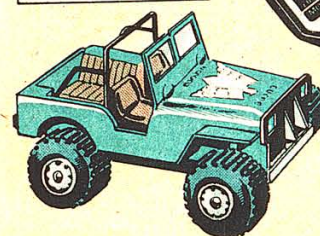
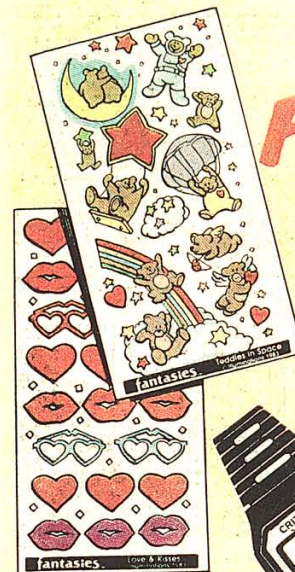
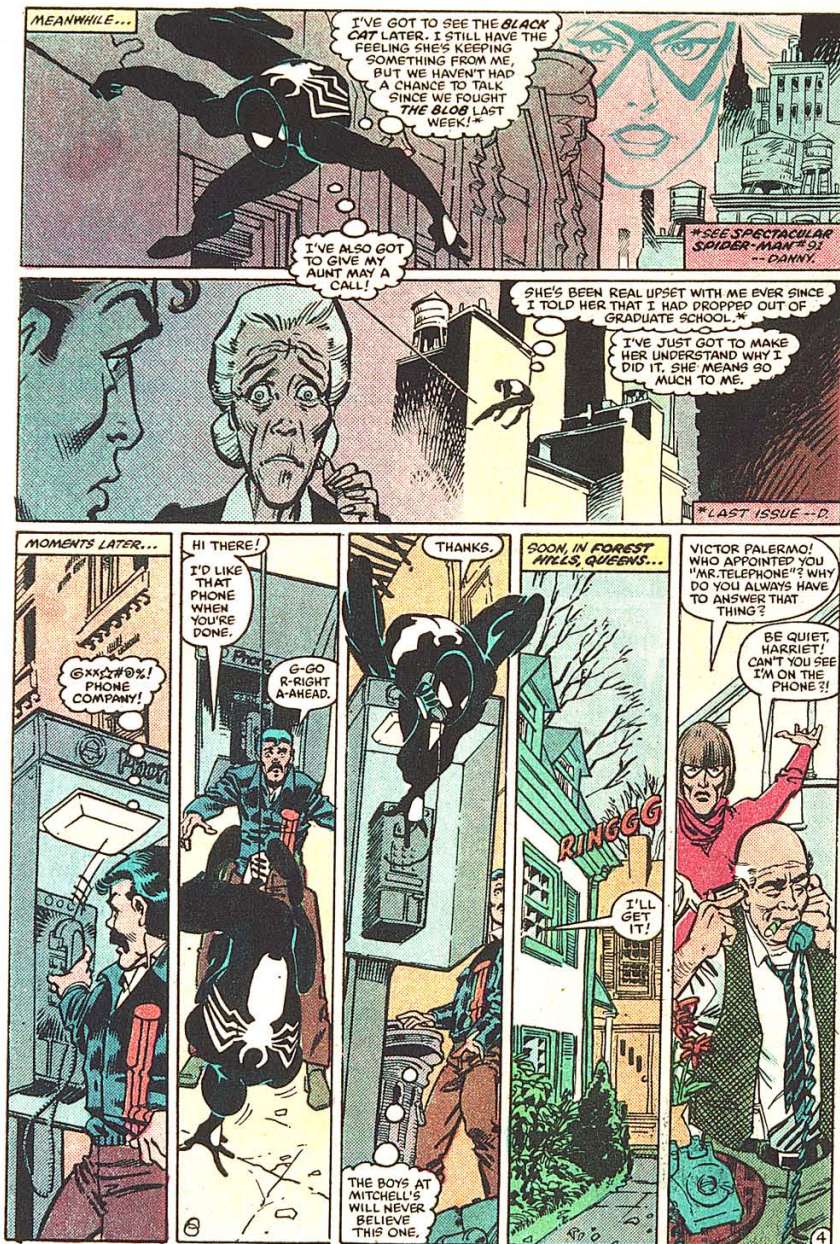
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*SEE ISSUE #251
--DANNY.

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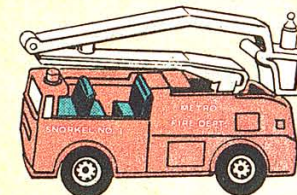
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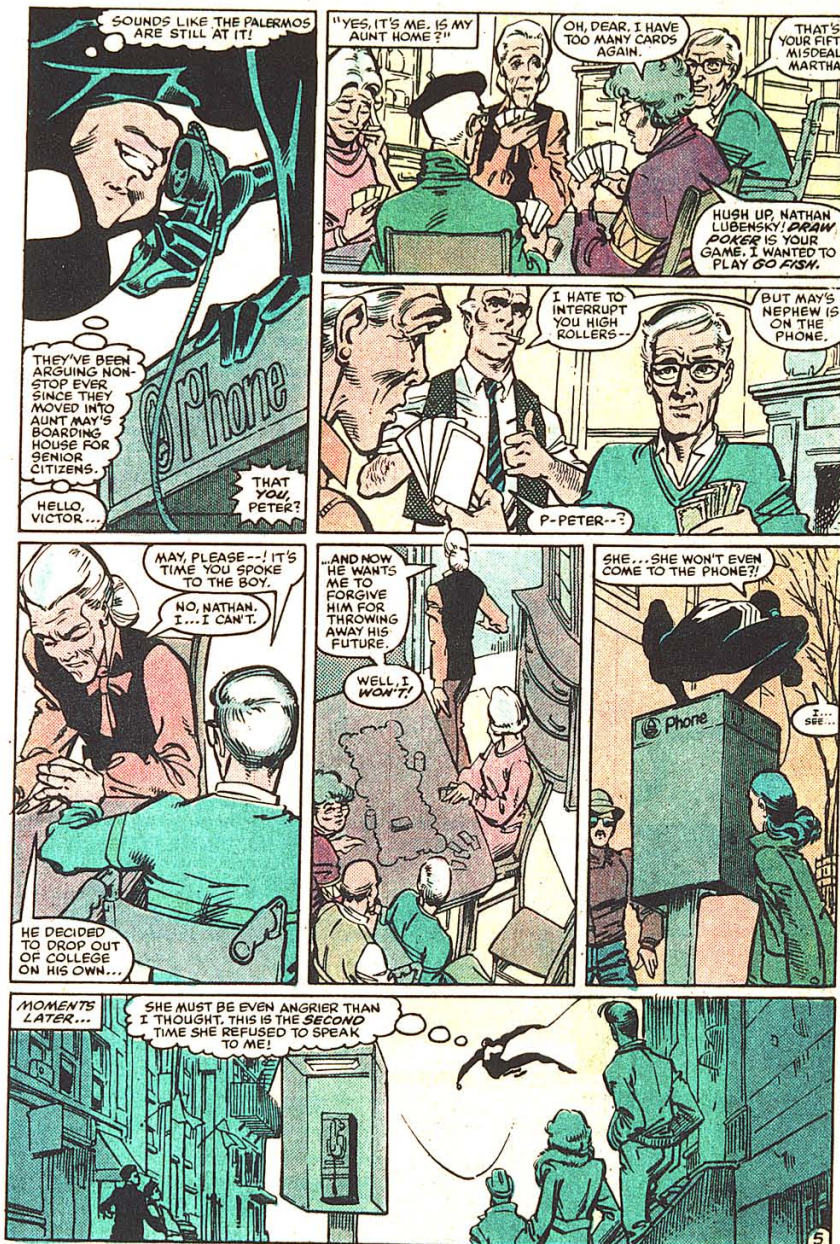
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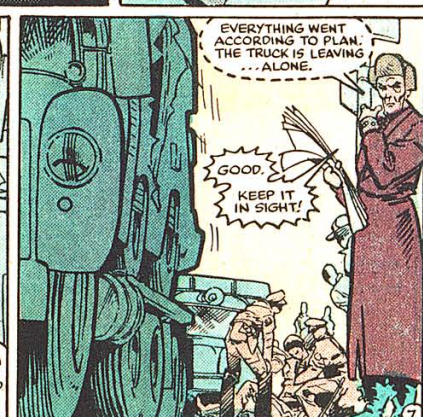
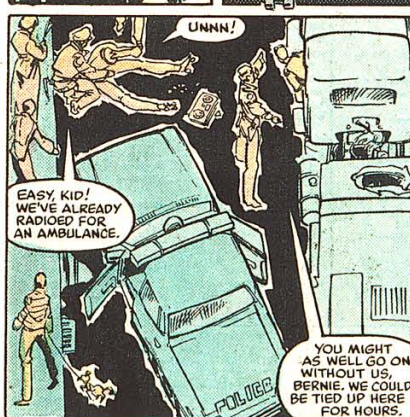
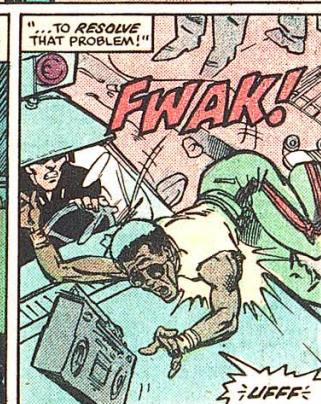
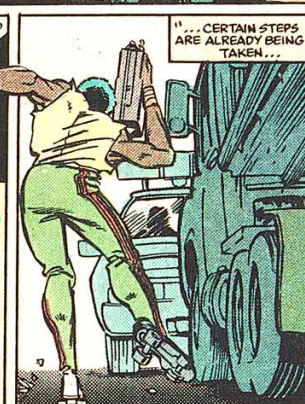
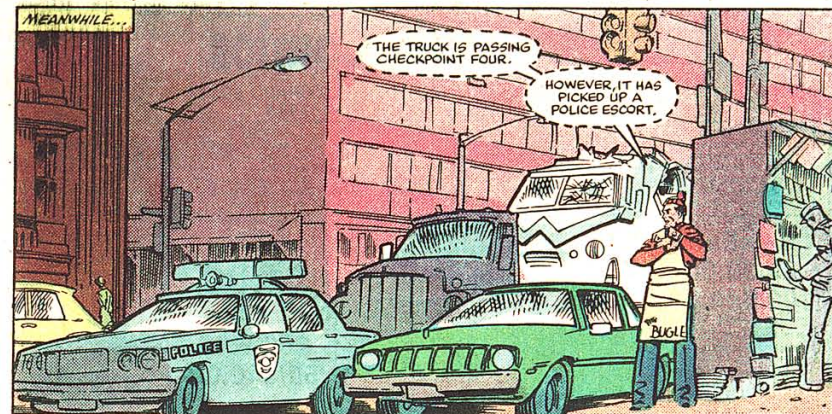
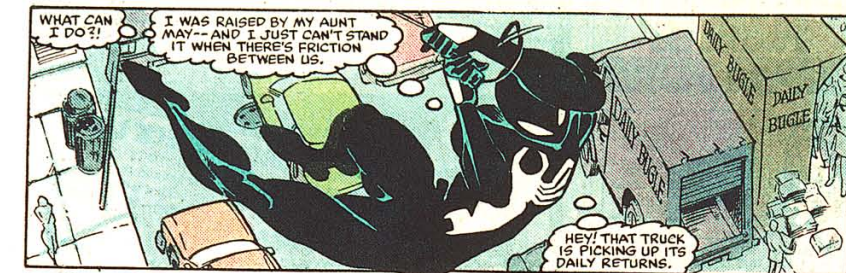
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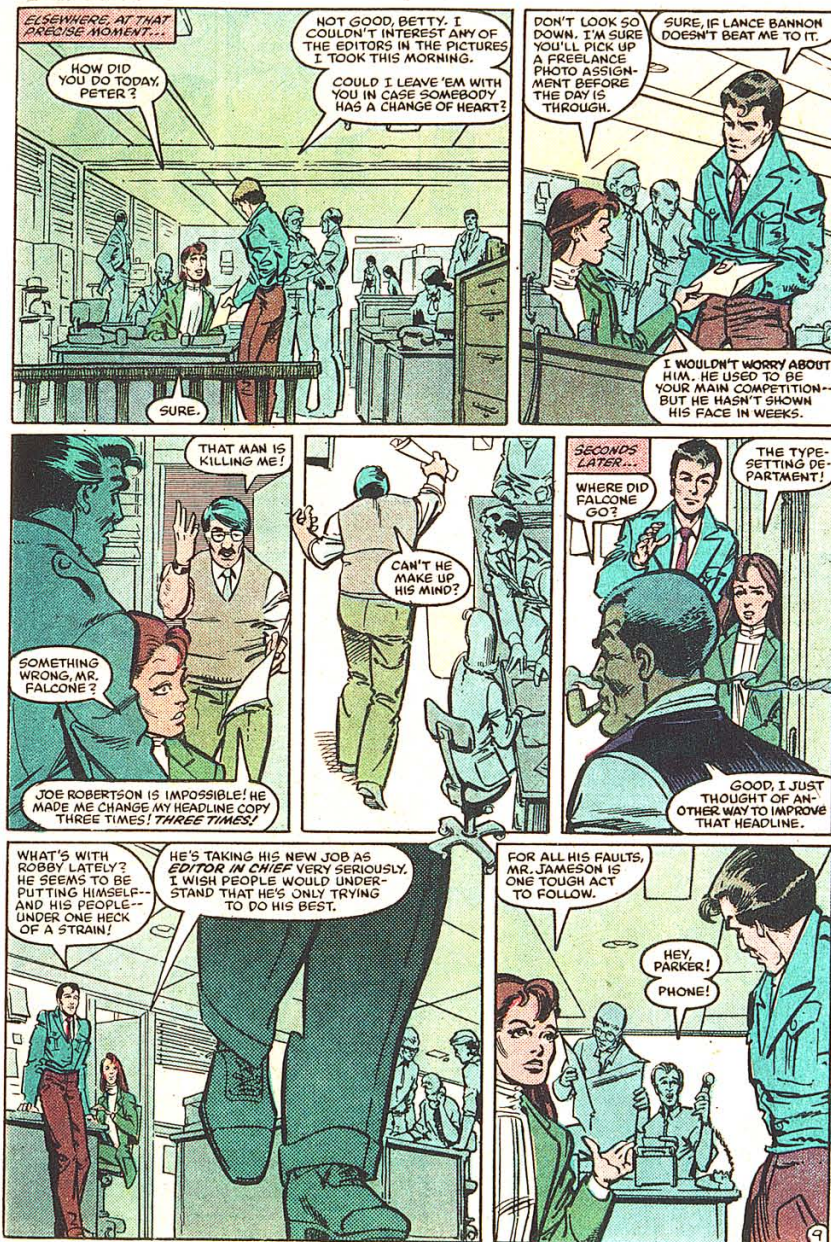
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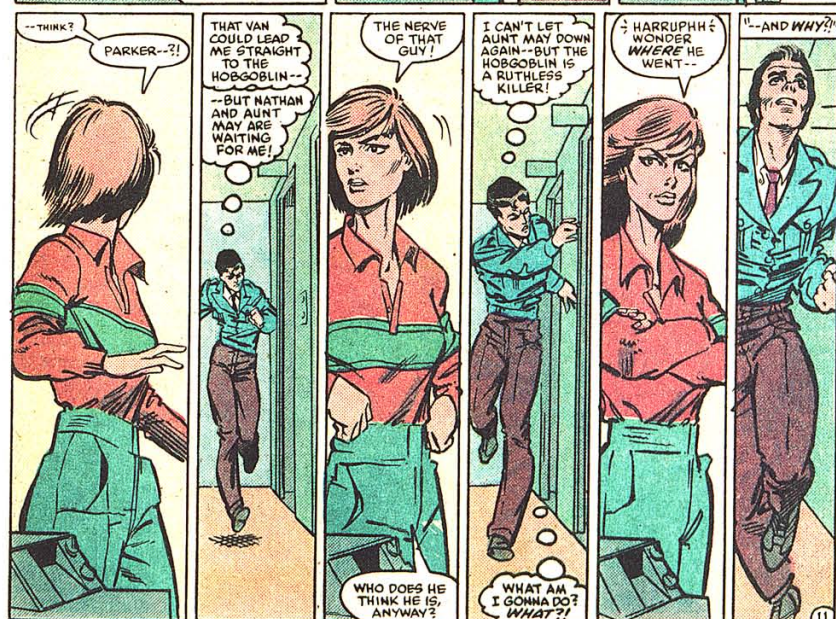
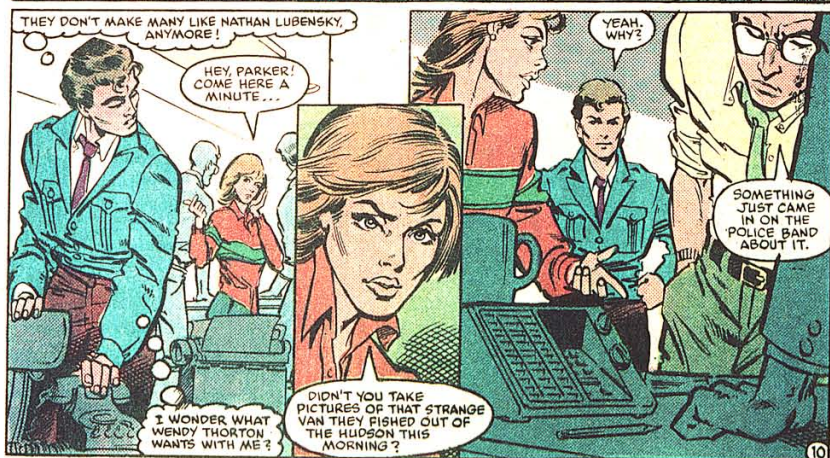
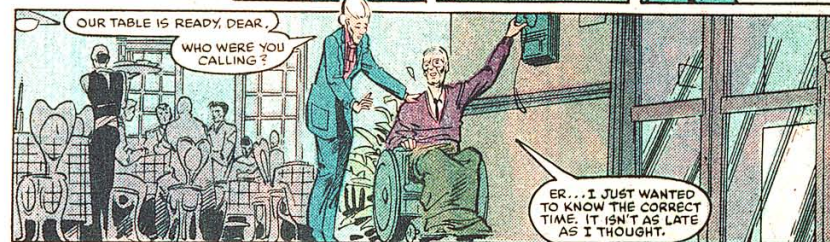
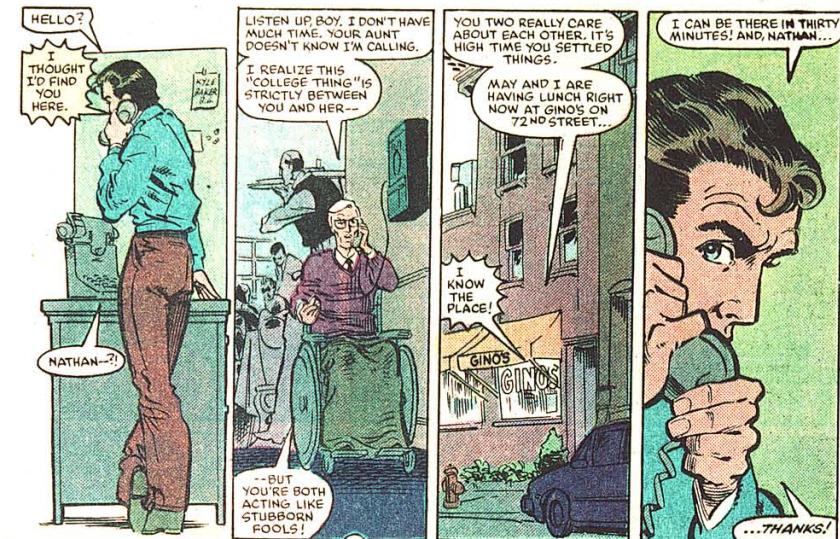
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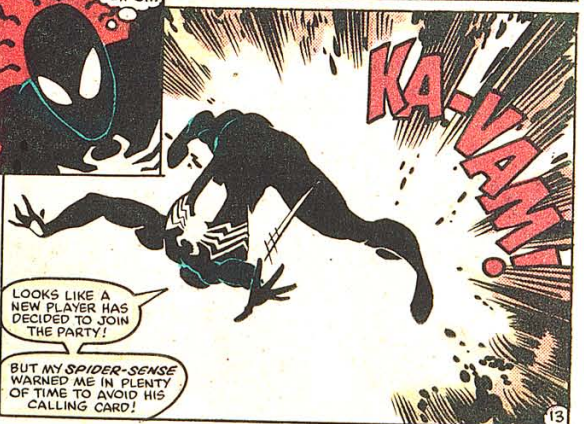
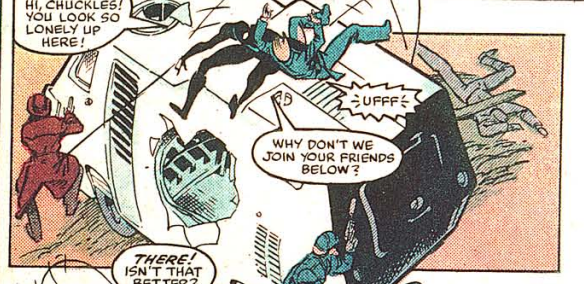
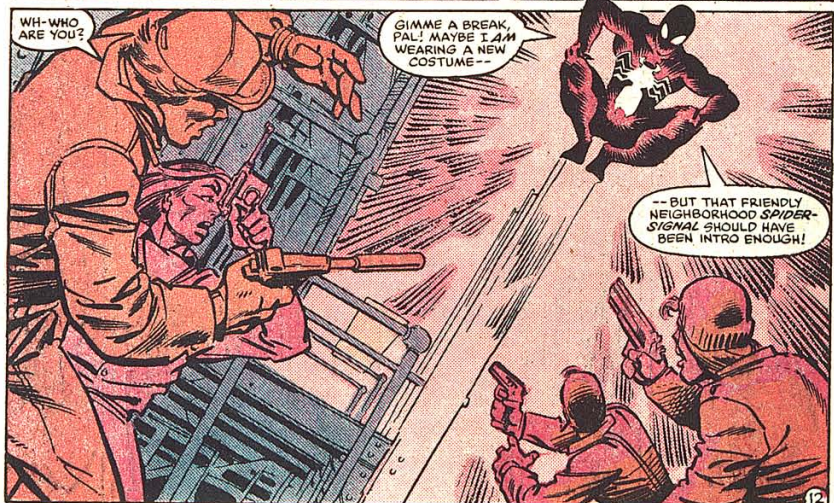
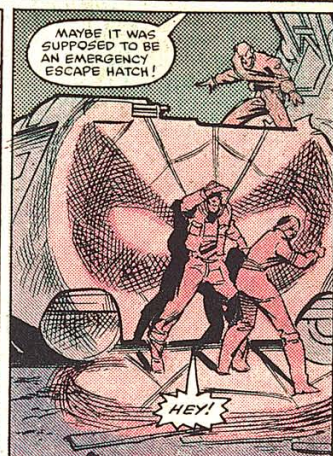
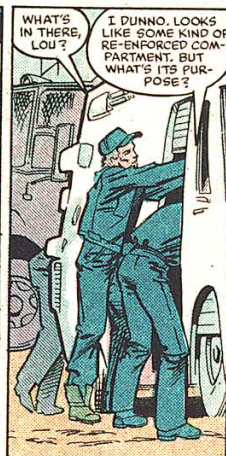
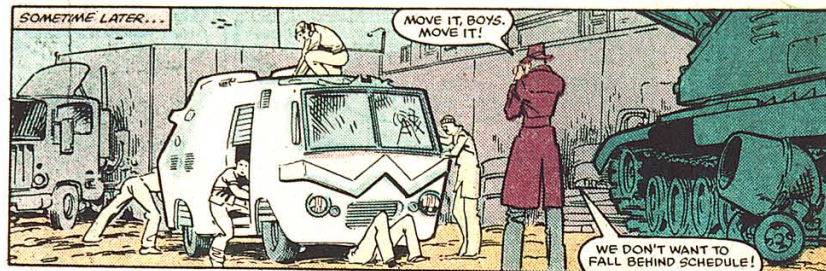
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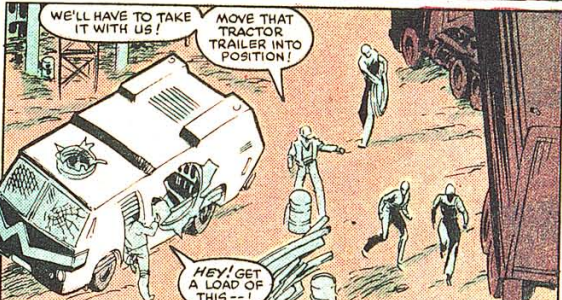
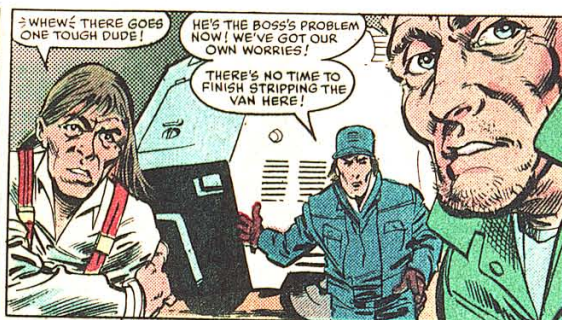
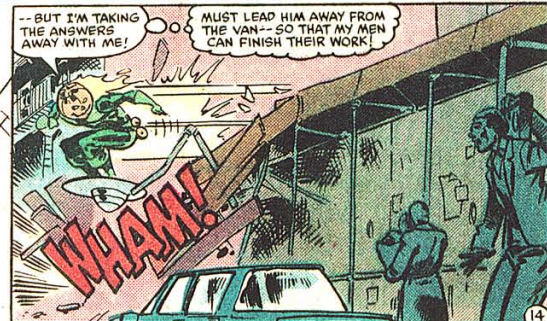
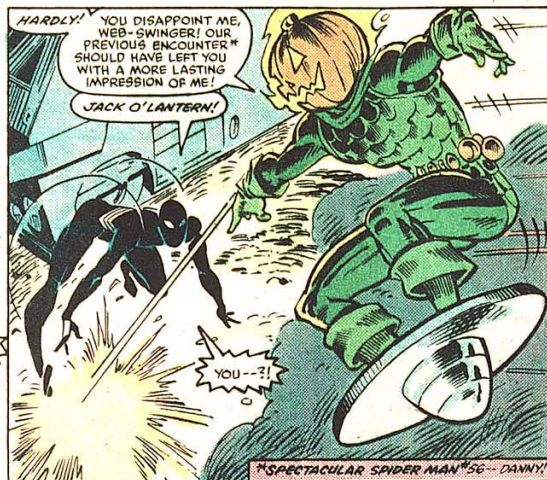
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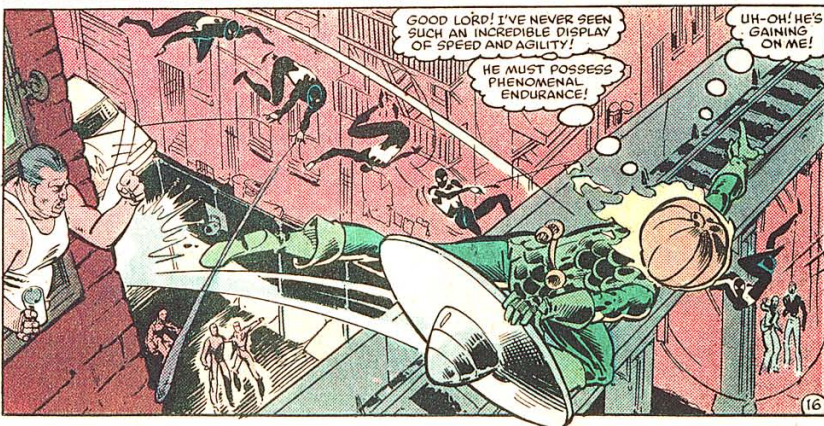
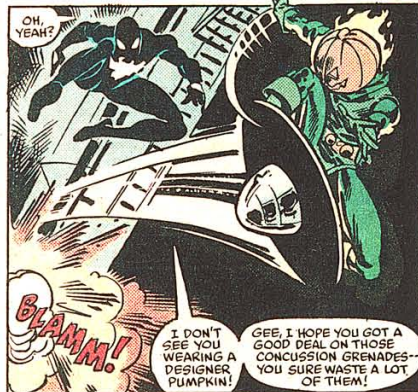
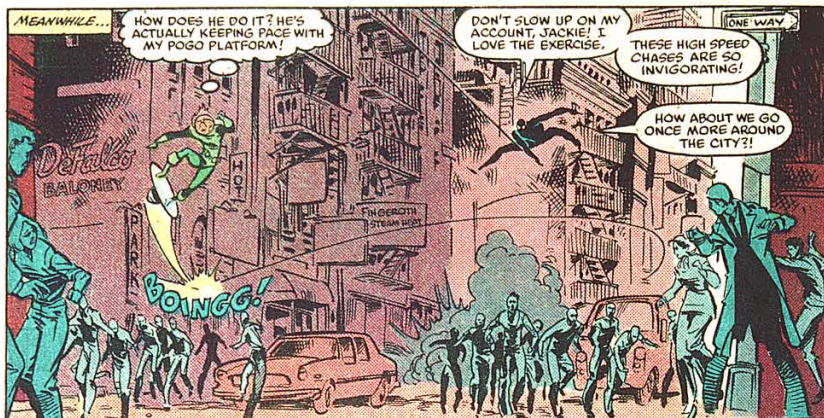
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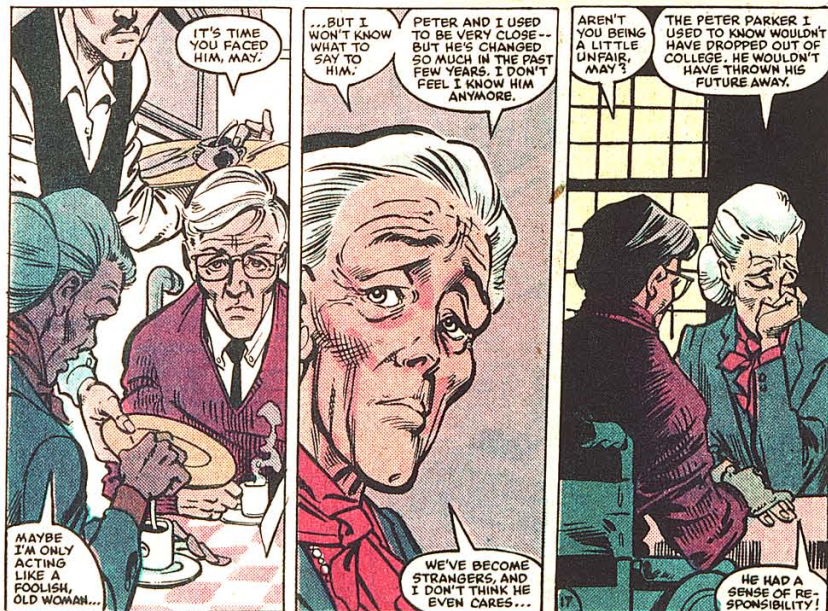
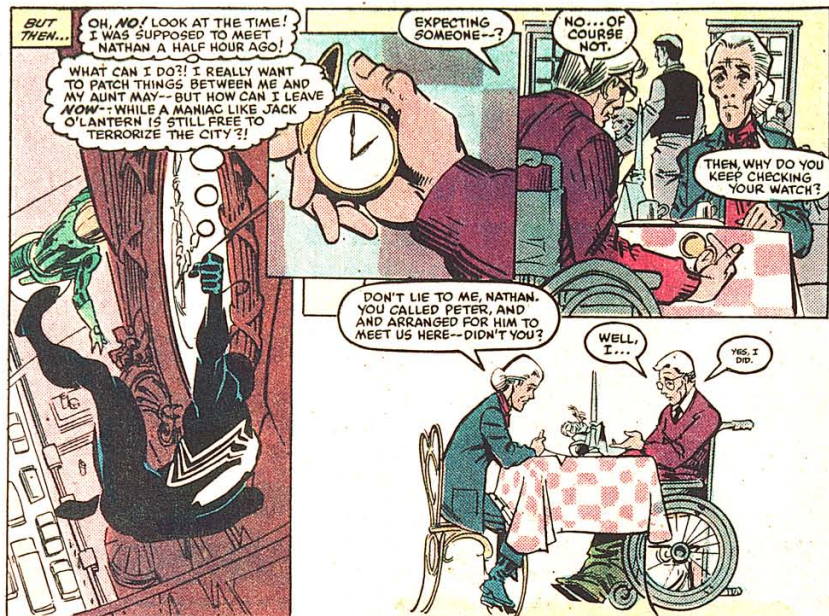
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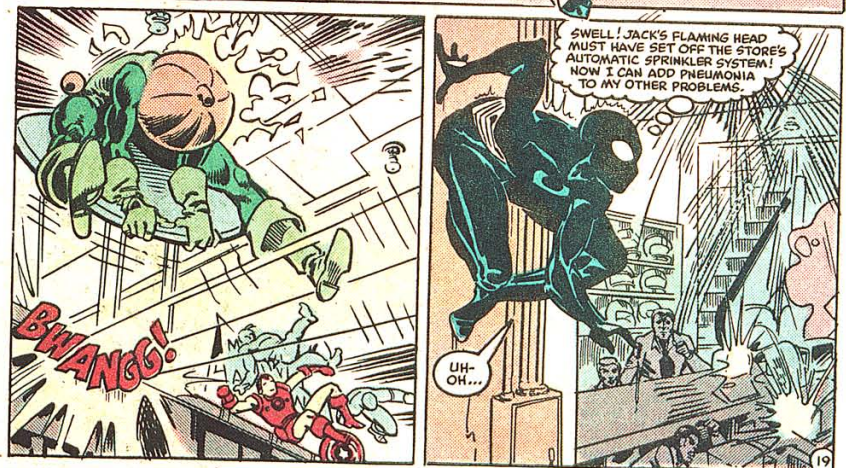
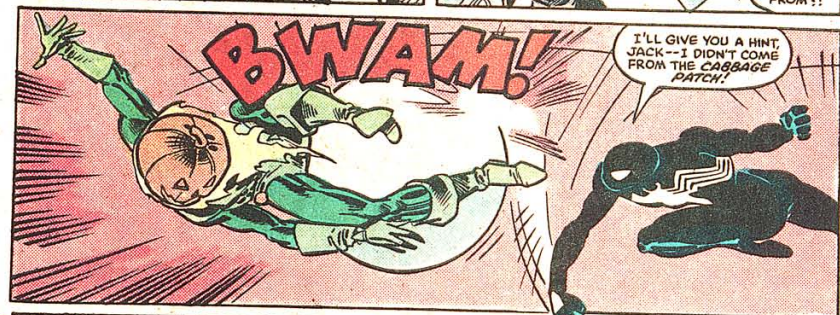
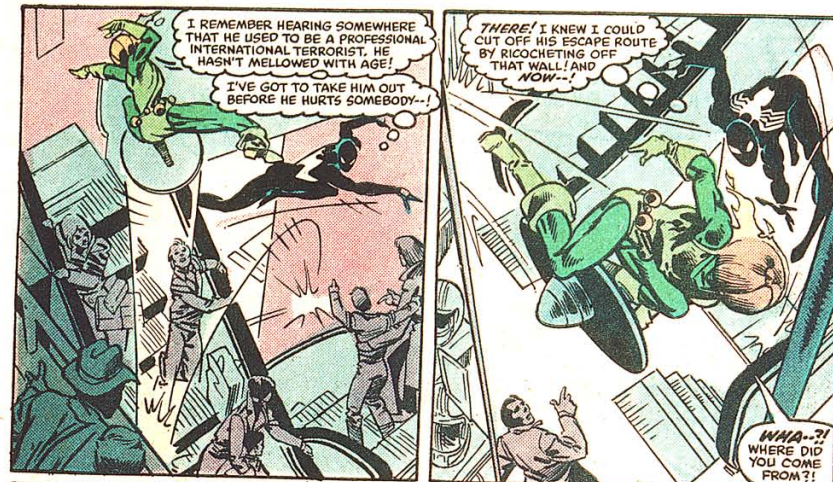
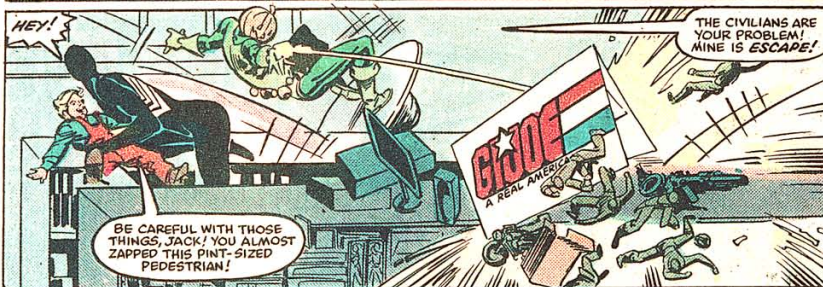
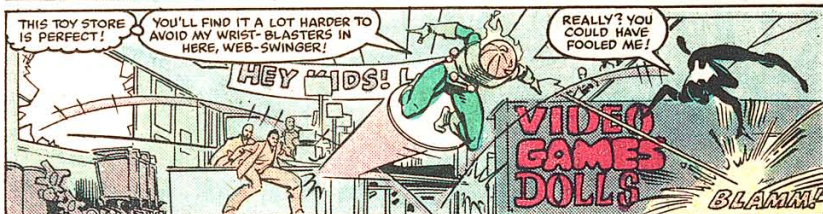
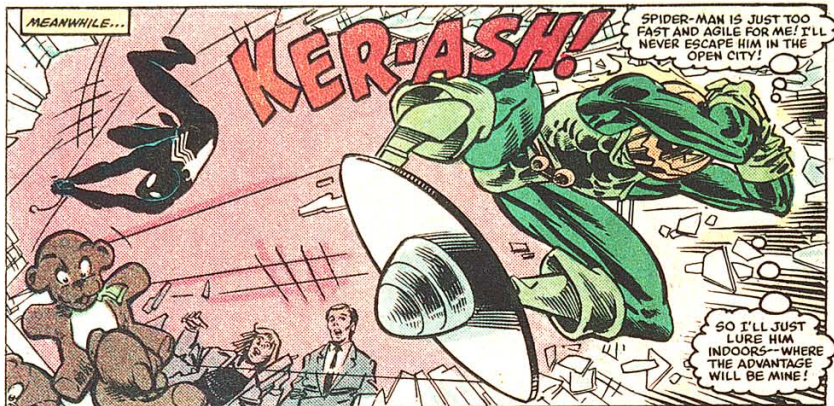
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Bullpen Bulletins

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Nah. Not yet, anyway. I can't guarantee that our prices for comics won't ever go up, but, barring catastrophe, they won't for a while — long while. These are the facts — you guys out there are giving us your support like never before (and I hope that means you think we're earning it!). Therefore, we can pay the bills, pay the artists, and bank a few nickels. Therefore, we don't have to up our prices. Therefore, we won't! We'll hold out as long as we can. Stick with us and we'll do our best to hold the line. We're in this together!

I GAVE A SPEECH...

...at a press conference at the giant Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, a few weeks ago. The press conference was to announce the new line of Marvel Comics computer games being launched by Adventure International, Inc. My speech went something like this:

Hi, there! I'm Jim Shooter, Editor in Chief of Marvel Comics. Unlike myself, my speech is very short. Marvel Comics is number one in adventure stories, and Adventure International, Incorporated is number one in computer adventure games. Together we're going to conquer the world. Thank you!

Scott Adams heads up Adventure International, and he is to computer games as Stan Lee is to comics. He is the man. Scott is also a Marvel Comics fan, as are a whole bunch of the people who work for him down at his Florida base of opera-

tions. They wanted their games to be right on — as closely woven into the Marvel Universe and continuity as possible. So, editor Bob Budiansky, creative genius John Byrne and I got together with Scott to plot out the entire game series and a matching set of comics — a Limited Series — which links it to the mainstream of Marvel.

HYPE BOX

MARVEL FANFARE #15 — Okay, true believers, this is it! **BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH** returns to **MARVEL** with a full-length *Thing* tale that he's written and illustrated! Barry's a genuine living legend in the comic world, and if you remember his classic *Conan* tales you know why. If not, here's your chance to see how he earned that reputation. Don't miss it — there's no telling when you'll get another!

ALPHA FLIGHT #12 — Perhaps the most eagerly anticipated story of the year — and the most fearfully dreaded! This issue, a member of *Alpha Flight* will die! Written and drawn by **JOHN BYRNE**.

What we (mostly John) came up with, I think, is great!

The game series is called the *Questprobe Series*. The first game featuring the Hulk and Doctor Strange will be on sale about May 1st at places which sell computer software and at your local comics shop. Every three months or so thereafter, another *Questprobe* game

featuring a Marvel star will be released.

The first issue of our *Questprobe Limited Series* of comics, also featuring the Hulk and Doctor Strange (of course) will be on sale April 24th. And, of course, every three months or so thereafter, whenever a new game debuts, the corresponding *Questprobe Limited Series* comic book will also be released.

You can play and enjoy each game without ever reading the comics (and without having played any of the other games in the series). And, you can read and enjoy the comics (which we'd do even if there were no games, frankly. They're that good!) without playing the games. Lucky for me, I've had this fear of computers ever since I was bitten by a pocket calculator as a child. But, of course, it's better if you partake of both the comics and the games — so, hey, enrich the experience, why don'tcha? Go for the gusto!

The game graphics, by the way, are designed by top Marvel artists.

All right, enough of this! Now you know what's going on. Make up your minds what you're doing and go do it! And be sure to let us know what you think...

TILL NEXT MONTH...

Hang in there! Stay well and come back, 'cause heavens knows, we need you!

Best

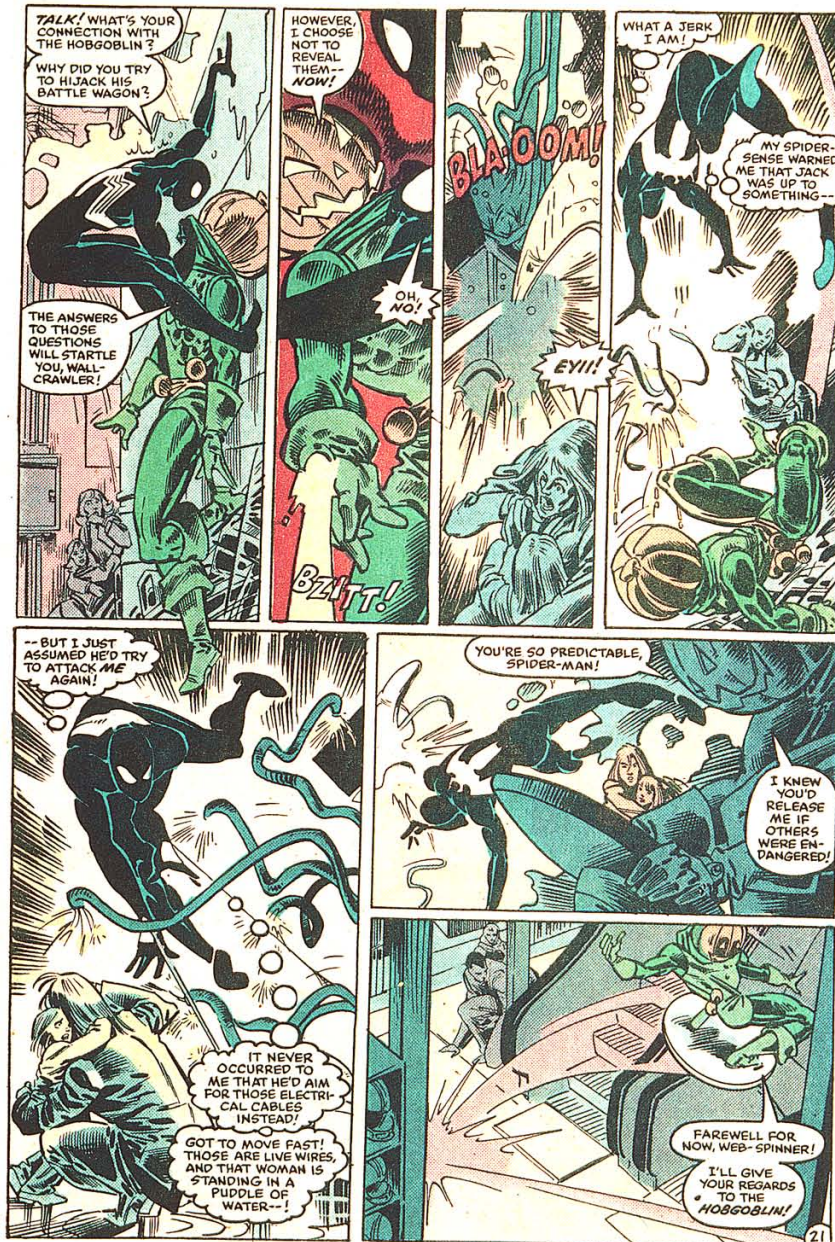
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Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

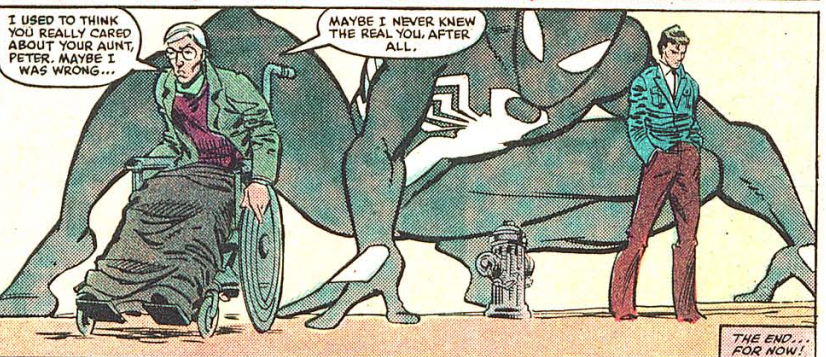
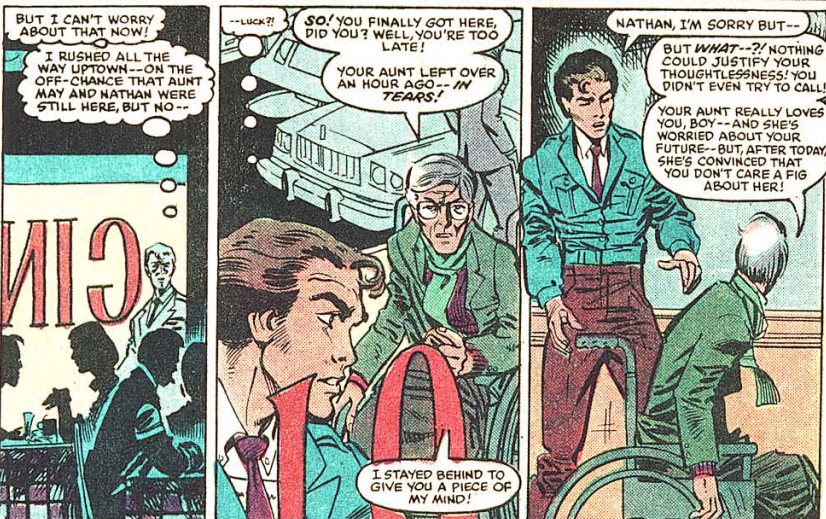
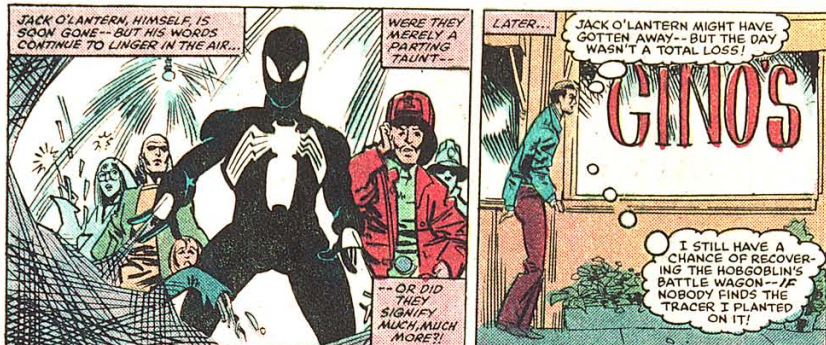
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- ☐ AVENGERS #245

- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #160
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #165 — Reprinting "Bring Back My Goblin to Me" by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man* #27
- ☐ X-MEN #183
- ☐ ROM #56
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #107
- ☐ G.I. JOE #25
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #268
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- ☐ IRON MAN #184
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- ☐ X-MEN TRADE PAPERBACK — Reprinting the Phoenix saga from *X-Men* #'s 129-137, by CHRIS CLAREMONT, JOHN BYRNE, and TERRY AUSTIN.





THE SPIDER'S WEB

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DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DeNATALA
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Bob, ya done us proud. We're still getting mail on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #248, the issue my assistant Bob DeNatala oversaw while I was off conventioning. "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man," by Stern, Frenz and Austin, was one of the best received stories of Assistant Editor's Month -- if not the best received -- and it inspired an outpouring of emotion from our readers that genuinely touched us.

The following letters are the merest tip of the mountain of mail we received, but they are a representative sampling. Thank you, one and all, for writing. Thank you, Roger, Ron, and Terry, for this most unique tale. Like I said, Bob, ya done us proud.

Dear Bob,

I have collected THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN for more time than I care to remember, and I always thought that the death of Gwen Stacy was one of the most shocking stories I ever read. Now issue #248 is released -- and I have to say "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man" was one of the most original and touching creations I've ever read. It now ranks as one of the best Spider-Man stories ever. Excellent!

Lon Vennard
3880 NW, 79 Ave.
Coral Springs, FL 33065

Dear People,

"The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man" portrayed Peter Parker as a real person better than any Spider-Man story I've seen for years. I was moved by that story in a way I have not been by any Spider-Man story since issue #33.

Roger Stern did a superlative job writing that story. I have read it several times over the last two days, and there is simply no element of the story that is less than perfect. The way the story is told, partly with text (the newspaper column), partly with interplay of words and pictures, and partly with pictures takes full advantage of the capabilities of the medium. In particular the newspaper column rings true; it would be completely believable if it were run in any daily newspaper. Stories like that make me believe in the Marvel characters.

I know that Roger is leaving SPIDER-MAN, and I think that all of us to whom Peter Parker is important are sorry to see him go. Thanks very much, Roger, for all the good Spider-Man stories, and particularly for "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man."

Bill Turner
1043 Auburn Road
Groton, NY 13073

Dear Roger, Ron and Terry,

Issue #248 of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN saw what must undeniably be Peter Parker's most heroic, admirable act since

his career as a super hero began. Never before have I read such a sensitive, beautiful story. In my book, Roger Stern rates as Marvel's finest writer.

I read "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man" and I cried. I cried as I have never cried before. I cried for all the Tims of the world who don't have a Spider-Man to ease their pain. Thank you for the most tender and memorable comic I have ever read.

Jake Horsley
Bishop Burton
North Humberstone
England

Dear Roger, Ron and the rest,

I was so emotionally moved by your story, "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man," that I felt compelled to write and tell you so.

I've read comics since I was 12, and some were very, very good, with meanings and messages far beyond the obvious. But now, 20 years later, the "Kid" story got to me like no other. Congratulations on a job well done.

Bill Chappell
990 Orange Ave.
Daytona Beach, FL 32014

Dear Marvel,

I have just finished reading THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #248, and I loved it! "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man" was wonderful. It was one of the best stories I have ever read.

It was extra-special to me because my grandfather died of stomach cancer and a close friend of the family died of leukemia.

I have collected comic books for almost three years, but if I could have only one book it would be that one.

Patsy Harrell
1069 W. Ocean View Ave.
Norfolk, VA 23503

Dear Mr. DeNatala,

For "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man," accept my sincere gratitude and appreciation. It was the best treatment of a terminal disease I've ever seen in a comic book. But Roger Stern may have written the tale, but I deserve equal credit for demanding and publishing it.

My 29-year-old cousin Craig developed a dry cough a month or so after his daughter's first birthday. Craig's doctor diagnosed his symptoms for six weeks, so it came as quite a shock when Craig learned that he had cancer. Now he divides his time between his wife, child and skating-rink business in Kalamazoo, and chemotherapy at the University of Chicago Medical Center. Craig jokes about his condition and complains that "the cure is worse than the disease." He's lost weight but not hope. When Craig was Tim Harrison's age, his mother died of cancer, but he swears he'll beat it.

My cousin Craig is luckier than Tim Harrison. Tim will never experience puberty, college, love, marriage or fatherhood. But

thank you for introducing us to him. In 11 short pages Tim became a very real and delightful person, as well as a reminder that one need not be a costumed crime-fighter to be a hero.

Pat Floss
Boston, MA

Dear Bob,

Lately, I've been wondering why I still read comics.

Thanks for letting me know.

Jordan Marsh
Chicago, IL

Dear Roger and Bob,

I hope Stan Lee reads "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man," because if he does I'm sure he'll be very proud.

Steven Getman
9213 N. Campus
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

He did -- and he is. Read on:

Dear Bob,

I just wanted to drop you a line to congratulate you on SPIDER-MAN #248.

Those two Roger Stern stories were dynamite -- and "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man" really knocked me out. The artwork by Frenz and Austin was the closest I've seen anyone come to the original Ditko.

If the readers enjoyed it as much as I did it'll be a sellout.

Excelsior!

Stan Lee
Marvel Productions Ltd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

You can't top a compliment like that, Bob. To Stan -- and everyone else who wrote us -- thank you so much.

NEXT ISSUE: The return of the Red Ghost (and where he goes, can the Super-Apes be far behind?) who's got a very strange problem. Plus: the introduction of the mysterious Black Fox... and more about Spidey's new duds. The story's called "Even a Ghost Can Fear the Night!", and it's written by Tom DeFalco, and drawn by the returning Ron Frenz, who now, as promised, is going to be doing full pencils, not just breakdowns. I'm betting you'll flip when you see his work -- along with the ace embellishment of Josef Rubenstein (who didn't do too shabby a job this month, over the brilliant guest-penciling of Rick Leonard)! All in all, I predict AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #255 is gonna be quite a package. But then, I'm a little prejudiced. Pick up a copy and let me know how you like it! See you then.

Danny Fingeroth

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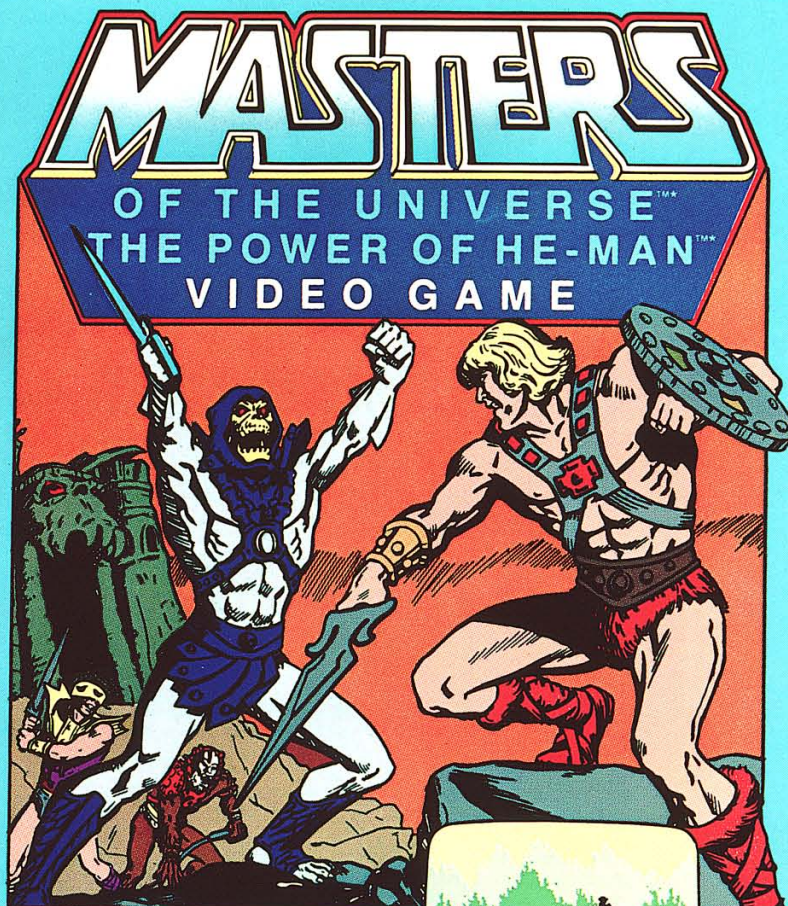
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